



Pat Quinn, Governor
Rocco J. Claps, Director

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Illinois Department of Human Rights Director Visits Northern Illinois University to Highlight State Law that Protects Students from Sexual Harassment

DeKalb—December 2, 2009. The Illinois Department of Human Rights Director Rocco Claps visited Northern Illinois University (NIU) to highlight a state law that protects students from sexual harassment. Governor Pat Quinn signed House Bill 2573 into Public Act 96-574 on August 18, 2009, adding a requirement for universities and any institution of higher learning to display posters that detail protections against sexual harassment in prominent and accessible areas for all students.

"Students have the right to learn in an environment that is free of sexual harassment," said Director Claps. "Our goal is to ensure students are aware that sexual harassment is never okay and there is a law that protects them. I thank NIU for allowing us the opportunity and assisting us in our outreach efforts."

Director Claps discussed the new measure's requirements, explained what sexual harassment is and what students can do about it. The Director was joined by Karen Baker, Assistant Vice President, Human Resource Administration.

"The Center for Affirmative Action and Diversity Resources at NIU is delighted to help the Illinois Department of Human Rights raise awareness about sexual harassment prevention and provide students with information on how to address any concerns of sexual harassment," said Ms. Baker. "We encourage all students to learn about their rights and responsibilities under state law and NIU's longstanding policies and practices prohibiting sexual harassment."

The amendment to the Illinois Human Rights Act calls for colleges, universities and institutions of higher learning to display posters in common areas including, but not limited to, residence halls, administration buildings, student unions, cafeterias, and libraries. College campuses may also satisfy the posting requirement by providing each student an electronic copy of the sexual harassment laws and policies at the time that registration materials are emailed.

For questions about protections against sexual harassment in higher education and to see all required postings, visit the Department's website at www.state.il.us/dhr or call 312-814-6200.

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